

United States Army
Colonel
Steven M. Merkel

Chief of Staff
First Army
Rock Island Arsenal,
Illinois 61299-8400
Effective April 6, 2011



Col. Steven M. Merkel became the First Army Chief of Staff on August 2, 2010. First Army trains, mobilizes and deploys reserve component Soldiers and units to support the needs of overseas combatant commanders. Col. Merkel's previous assignment was as Commander, 205th Infantry Brigade (Training Support), First Army Division East, Camp Atterbury, Ind., from July 2008 to June 2010.

Col. Merkel graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1986 and received his commission as a Field Artillery officer.

Col. Merkel's command assignments include: Platoon Leader, 26th U.S. Army Field Artillery Detachment, Paderborn, Germany; Firing Battery Commander and Headquarters Battery Commander, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Division Artillery, Fort Campbell, Ky.; Commander, 1-9 Field Artillery, 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga.

Col. Merkel's staff assignments and key positions include: Group Adjutant, 570th U.S. Army Artillery Group, Muenster, Germany; Target Analyst and Battalion Assistant Operations Officer, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Division Artillery, Fort Campbell, Ky.; Political-Military Analyst, NATO Policy Branch, European Division, J-5 Directorate, Joint Staff, Washington D.C.; Chief of Plans for Multinational Brigade-East, Division Chief of Plans, Battalion Executive Officer, Brigade Executive Officer, Division Deputy Chief of Staff, 1st Infantry Division, Wurzburg, Germany, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Turkey; Regimental Tactical Officer, 3rd Regiment, United States Corps of Cadets, West Point, N.Y.

Col. Merkel's military education includes graduation from the Field Artillery Officer Basic and Advanced courses, the Command and General Staff College, the School of Advanced Military Studies, the Joint Professional Military Education Course, the

Defense Language Institute French Linguist Course, and the Naval War College in Newport, R.I.

He holds a Master of Arts Degree in Military Science from the Army Command and General Staff College, and a Master of Sciences in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (with 6 Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Commendation Medal with "V" device for Valor, Army Commendation Medal (with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Kosovo Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War On Terrorism (GWOT) Expeditionary Medal, GWOT Service Medal, NATO Medal, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Ancient Order of Saint Barbara, Order of Saint George, Order of Saint Barbara, Combat Action Badge, Airborne Badge, Air Assault Badge, Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge, British Airborne Badge, Indiana Distinguished Service Medal, State of Indiana Distinguished Hoosier, and the Legion of Hoosier Heroes.